



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Brussels 2006**

MC.DEC/20/06
5 December 2006

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fourteenth Meeting
MC(14) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 20/06
FUTURE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP**

The Ministerial Council,

Welcoming the proposal by Kazakhstan to assume the function of the OSCE
Chairmanship,

Considering that the objective of the OSCE is to reach full implementation of OSCE
commitments, norms and values through co-operation between participating States,

Considering that a key reason for OSCE participating States to mandate each other
with the highest functional responsibilities is the demonstration of willingness and capacity to
exercise leadership in that co-operation,

Considering that participating States are equally entitled to offer this demonstration
and therefore equally eligible to exercise up to the highest responsibilities within the OSCE,

Considering that Kazakhstan has committed to a programme of political action and
reforms and to exercise leadership in upholding OSCE's commitments, norms and values,

Decides to return to the offer of Kazakhstan to assume the OSCE Chairmanship in
2009 at the latest at its meeting in Spain in 2007.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT
UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE
OSCE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

By the delegation of Kazakhstan,

“Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the future OSCE Chairmanship, I would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Kazakhstan regrets the absence of consensus on the issue of selecting a participating State to carry out the functions of the Chairmanship in the year 2009, despite the fact that there is one, and only one, State which has offered its candidature and the fact that, according to Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 and the OSCE Rules of Procedure, such a decision is to be taken “as a rule two years before the Chairmanship’s term of office starts”.

We consider that the decision adopted cannot serve as a precedent for the future of our Organization. In accordance with the 1973 Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations, “all States participating in the” CSCE/OSCE “shall do so as sovereign and independent States and in conditions of full equality”.

We have agreed to this decision with the understanding that the participating States will remain seized of this matter in the course of 2007, in order to allow the potential 2009 Chairmanship sufficient time for preparations, as was the case for previous Chairmanships.

The fact that Kazakhstan has joined a consensus on this particular decision once again shows our adherence to a constructive approach and our respect for the existing positions of all the participating States.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be duly registered.”

MC.DEC/20/06
5 December 2006
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT
UNDER PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE
OSCE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation,

“While it has joined the consensus on the Ministerial Council decision on the future OSCE Chairmanship, the Russian delegation confirms that Russia supports Kazakhstan’s bid for the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2009.

Our position is well known and is in conformity with the decision of the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States adopted in Kazan on 26 August 2005.

Moreover, attempts to establish any conditions for determining the Chairmanship of the OSCE are unacceptable to us. This decision should not be regarded as setting a precedent for the future and must not undermine the fundamental principles of the sovereign equality of the OSCE participating States.

We request that this statement be attached to the decision adopted and be included in the journal of today’s meeting.”